



David J. R. Prime-Coote, director, in the garden of the estate

## Former summer home of Lady Eaton now unique educational facility

**S**ET in the hills of the beautiful King City area, Eaton Hall is in its splendor as the leaves begin to turn and fall winds hint at the cooler days to follow. The moraine on the former Eaton estate, used by Lady Eaton and her family as a summer residence, is generally rugged and abundantly treed with a thick forest of deciduous, broadleaf trees — especially the colorful maple. Along with the year-round greenery of many spruce and pine, the kaleidoscope of autumn hues during the fall season is a sight to behold.

Eaton Hall has a long and colorful history, beginning in 1920 when John and Lady Eaton visited their good friend Sir Henry Pellat, builder and owner of Casa Loma, at his beautiful country estate called "Lake Marie." Shortly thereafter Lady Eaton bought the adjoining farm and lived during the summer months in the 22-room Villa Fiori until Eaton Hall was built in the late 1930s. The four-tower, Casa

Loma inspired chateau, with 72 rooms and 33,000 feet of useable space, was used during the war years, 1939-1945, as a naval hospital for severe burn victims. Following the war, Eaton Hall was again used as a summer residence for Lady Eaton and her family.

In 1972 Eaton Hall was purchased by Seneca College, who then established their King Campus with the main building, Eaton Hall, the Villa Fiori and outlying buildings being used as teaching and administrative areas for full-time day diploma courses.

The centre is one of the most unique, live-in educational facilities in Canada, located just 30 minutes from Toronto. It is surrounded by 690 acres of rolling hills and woodland which overlook a large private lake.

The Eaton Hall Management Centre facility includes the 77-room Eaton Hall and nearby Villa Fiori which has 33 rooms. Close to 80 guests can be accommodated

overnight and the meeting rooms can comfortably seat groups ranging from 60 to 120. All types of modern audio visual aids are available. It is now designed to meet the two-fold educational objective of the college; to provide facilities appropriate to the needs of the community and to provide a meaningful learning experience for students enrolled full time in such programs as Flight Services, Hospitality Services and Tourism.

Amidst all this elegance, dress is casual and comfort is the keynote. If the weather is cool or inclement on the day of your visit, the well-appointed dining rooms and lounges provide cosy fireplaces, intimate areas for relaxation and spectacular views. The facility is licensed and meals are served in a comfortable style. Weddings, dinner dances and private parties are all part of their service. For daily buffet luncheon reservations or further information, please call 833-4500.



Don Van Meer and Melanie Causton enjoy buffet.

## Ancient craft of rug-hooking enjoys revival in King City



King City's attractive road sign.

**B**EHIND the King City Crawford Wells General Store there stands — in sedate repose — the historic old barn, originally configured as the stables. While the stables have long been stilled, Jeanne Field and Pam Dowling have established a new and much quieter social centre for the residents of King City and their friends; a large studio constructed specifically for rug-hooking in the time-honored, traditional manner.

Rittermere-Hurst-Field, as their store cum studio is known, holds a "hook-in" on the first Wednesday of every month, at which time rug-hooking enthusiasts are urged to join the camaraderie, bring a brown bag lunch and work on their extraordinarily creative projects. The store specializes in rug-hooking design and supplies, and — as one might imagine — is the only one of its kind in Canada.

"The craft of rug-hooking is beginning to enjoy a revival and is being recognized as an art form,"

according to Dowling. She feels the popularity of country decorating has spurred this new interest in rug-hooking, a craft that was begun by early Canadian settlers using their discarded burlap feed bags, worn-out clothing and old blankets cut into strips to make area rugs for their cold slate or wooden floors.

Originally, most designs were drawn by the mother on burlap sacking with charcoal. The artwork was often primitive and depicted something close at hand such as flowers from the garden, animals in the barnyard or landscapes that surrounded the family homestead. At the end of the day the family would gather around the fire for their evening time together and all would participate in the rug-hooking.

Today our designs are drawn by people with artistic ability and wool flannel — cut into strips by machine — is used. Commercial dyes are now available, giving an unimagined range of colors.

To Field, who has taught rug-hooking in the traditional manner for a number of years and has travelled extensively in the United States and Canada giving workshops and seminars on her craft, much of the appeal of rug-hooking is the ease of learning the basic technique, the relatively modest investment required in equipment and materials, and the diversity of patterns and colors available today.

The partners offer Learn to Hook classes in their studio Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. at \$5 per session. Beginner kits with pre-cut fabric, pattern and instruction booklets, starting at \$30, are an economical way to find out if you enjoy the craft.

The company's current catalogue of over 1,000 patterns, kits and necessary supplies can be ordered by sending \$6 to Rittermere-Hurst-Field, Box 59, King City, Ontario L0G 1K0.

The store hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



# Authors disagree with verdict

By BETSY POWELL  
The Canadian Press

Andrew Leyshon-Hughes was 17 when he took a butcher's knife and plunged it 21 times into his best friend as she lay sleeping. Then he raped her.

Leyshon-Hughes was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity after psychiatric experts testified he was insane when he killed Nancy Eaton, the great-great-granddaughter of department-store founder Timothy Eaton.

"I think the whole trial was a sham," says William Scoular, a Toronto-area English teacher who has co-written a book about the 1985 murder.

"What happened to Nancy really haunted me," Scoular, 32, said in an interview, explaining why he decided to do the book, titled *A Question of Guilt*. His co-author was Vivian Green, a British academic who was Scoular's mentor at Oxford.

"I wanted to look inside, peel back the layers . . . to find out what forces operated to disfigure this 'boy next door's' emotional grasp," said Scoular.

In their analysis of the trial in Toronto, the co-authors write that Leyshon-Hughes should have been found guilty of first-degree murder.

"I'm not prepared to accept what we've been told," Scoular said during the interview. "It would all be very well if there was no motive. But sex was involved — it was a sadistic sexual psychopathic killing."



NANCY EATON

When the Crown announced to the jury on the ninth day of the trial that the psychiatric experts had proved Leyshon-Hughes did not know what he was doing when he killed the blond 23-year-old Eaton, Scoular was shocked.

"I couldn't believe it," said Scoular, who was in the courtroom throughout the proceedings. "Some of the most important evidence wasn't heard. No Crown witnesses were called, it was all one-sided."

The book questions much of the complex testimony presented on behalf of the defence and dismisses the defence counsel's contention that the teenager's mental illness stemmed from brain damage at birth.

The authors feel there was strong evidence to suggest that

Leyshon-Hughes was not insane but a psychopath who knew clearly what he was doing and that it was wrong, but lacked the conscience to do anything about it.

Leyshon-Hughes had two motives for killing Eaton — sexual gratification and deep-rooted resentment and jealousy — which the jury likely didn't consider in its 15-minute-long deliberation, the book says.

"People think that anyone who commits a sickening act is sick," said Scoular. "It's easy to confuse. The fact is some people just don't care — they grow up without a conscience."

Eaton had befriended the troubled teenager, allowing him to sleep on her couch when he had nowhere else to stay, the trial was told. Even after he stole her car, she remained a sympathetic and loyal friend.

The first half of the book describes how the lives of Eaton and Leyshon-Hughes came to intersect — their friendship forged on a dock in Muskoka, an affluent resort area north of Toronto, where both families had cottages.

Despite their age difference, the pair found they had much in common.

While both belonged to upper crust lineages — Leyshon-Hughes is a descendant of the banking and legal Osler family — their parents were only moderately well off.

Eaton wore a hearing aid and had been a below-average student. Leyshon-Hughes, beset

with behavior problems from childhood, also did poorly in school. Both had strained relations with their fathers.

Leyshon-Hughes may have grown to resent Eaton as she became more successful at her job as a real-estate agent and as her circle of friends widened, the authors suggest.

Scoular has interviewed Leyshon-Hughes several times since the trial and says he has seen no sign of remorse in the man, now 21.

"He's like the little boy who doesn't care about pulling the wings off the fly. To him, Nancy was like a fly."

*A Question of Guilt*, by William Scoular and Vivian Green. Published by Stoddart Publishing; 256 pages; \$24.95.



## Obituary



**MARGARET DUNN:** Was named to the Order of the British Empire.

# M. Eaton Dunn, 75 women's corps boss

By Chris Lawson  
Toronto Star

Margaret Eaton Dunn, head of the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II, has died in London, England. She was 75.

Mrs. Dunn joined the corps in 1942 with the rank of captain, retiring as a colonel when the war ended in 1945.

She served in Italy and Northern Europe as the corps' director-general from 1944 until the coming of peace. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire for her war-time service.

The corps was a 20,000-strong contingent of women, recruited from across Canada. It took on numerous non-combat duties during the war.

Mrs. Dunn died June 6 at the King Edward VI Hospital for Officers. A funeral service was held in London on June 9 and in Toronto last Monday.

Born in Toronto, the daughter of R. Y. Eaton, president of the T. Eaton Co., Mrs. Dunn attended Branksome Hall, a private girls' school, between 1922 and 1926.

## 'Great drive'

"Certainly I had a great deal of admiration for her," said twin brother Jack Eaton. "She got all the good things, and I got what was left over," he joked.

While stationed in Brussels in 1945, his sister met Lt.-Col Hubert Dunn, a childhood sweetheart. The two married and settled in London in 1946.

Eaton said his sister's personality suited her commanding role in the army corps. She was highly organized and a tough taskmaster, he added.

"She had a great drive to get things done. When she took over, she took control and made things go."

Mrs. Dunn later suffered from chronic arthritis and had both hips replaced. Despite having to use two canes, she remained active with the Women's Canadian Club in London.

The club awarded her an honorary lifetime membership. She also served as an honorary trustee of the Branksome Hall Foundation.





For more than a year, 75 of the world's finest artisans have been working on a multimillion-dollar residence for the Eaton

family in Caledon, a town northwest of Toronto. The estate is almost half the size of a football field.

— CP laserphoto

## Eaton family constructing huge mansion in Caledon

TORONTO (CP) — A multi-million-dollar mansion that's half the size of a football field and includes at least 10 bathrooms is being built by the Eaton family, a Toronto newspaper reported Wednesday.

For more than a year, 75 artisans from around the world have worked on the 2,285-square-metre home in the Caledon hills north of Toronto for Signy Eaton, the 76-year-old matriarch of the family, the Toronto Star said.

The family, owners of the Eaton department store chain, has refused to be interviewed about the brick-and-stone residence being built in the style of a 19th century Victorian home.

But the newspaper said this much is known:

- The house has a 706-square-metre main floor, a helicopter pad, tennis courts and a private pond several hectares in size.
- A billiard room divides the house into two separate and self-contained wings.
- A compact disc player is being installed that can handle 290 CDs and can be operated from any of the dozens of rooms.
- There are more than 10 bathrooms, many bigger than the average kitchen.

The size of the house is known from plans submitted to the Niagara Escarpment Commission, which approved its construction in May 1989. Other

details were disclosed by workers.

Robert Campeau's mansion in suburban North York is about the same size at 2,323 square metres. The financially troubled entrepreneur has put his home up for sale and is expected to get at least \$15 million for it.

Officials of French architect Thierry W. Despont, who designed the Eaton house, said they could not discuss the residence without permission from the family. Uninvited visitors are ordered away.

The exterior of the house is 95 per cent complete. It is being built by Laamanen Construction of Sudbury, Ont.





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